

August 18, 2021

**PORTION OF MASSALINA BAYOU UNDER ADVISORY AFTER RAW SEWAGE RELEASE**

***City of Panama City reports approximately 120,675-gallon raw sewage release***



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**Panama City, Fla. –** The City of Panama City is reporting three separate releases totaling approximately **120,675 gallons of raw sewage**. This is due to an overflowing lift station at **530 East 6th Street** because of heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Fred and a power outage at the lift station. The release entered a storm drain which empties into **Massalina Bayou**.

Sewage contamination of water can expose swimmers to **intestinal viruses, bacteria, and parasites**. Swimming in the water may cause **symptoms like food poisoning** with vomiting and diarrhea. **Infection is possible** in **open cuts and wounds** that come in contact with the water.

The Florida Department of Health in Bay County, DOH-Bay, **advises against swimming in Massalina Bayou** from **East 4th Street to East Beach Drive** until further notice.

The **City of Panama City** will **test** the water and share results with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Bay County Health Department. **Once levels are safe, the advisory will be lifted.**

For more information, contact the DOH-Bay's Environmental Health office at 850-481-4806 or visit [Bay.FloridaHealth.gov](http://Bay.FloridaHealth.gov).

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